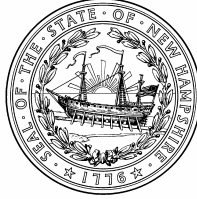


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN
Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS
Graham J. Morrison
Clifton C. Below

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

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Contact: Amanda Noonan
Director, Consumer Affairs
(603) 271-2431

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSION APPROVES NEW DESIGN FOR ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission recently approved a new design for the Electric Assistance Program, which was introduced in 2002 to provide financial assistance to low-income electric customers. Under the new design, which takes effect October 1, 2006, the electric assistance program will provide benefits to approximately 30,000 eligible households across the state; roughly doubling the number of customers receiving benefits under the current design.

Eligible customers will receive discounts ranging from 5% to 70% off their electric bill, based on household size and income. Customers currently enrolled in the program may see a change in their discount level. Customers of National Grid, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Public Service of New Hampshire and Unitil who have household incomes at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible to participate in the Electric Assistance Program. To apply for the program, customers should contact their local Community Action Agency. Contact information for Community Action Agencies can be found at the Commission's website at www.puc.nh.gov/consumer/electricassistanceprogram.htm.

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